

“Joan believed in me more than I believed in myself.”

Her good counsel helped guide staff members while they worked in our office and also served them well in their future endeavors. We are especially grateful that Joan helped groom one member of our staff who started as an intern under Joan's tutelage and then worked as a staff member in our office before going to practice law, as Joan had once done. This member of our team later returned to our office well prepared to take on Joan's job when Joan left the office in February.

And Joan wasn't just a mentor on professional matters. She was also there for staff members navigating the ups and downs of life. She has been a consoler-in-chief in times of loss and a cheerleader-in-chief in times of joy. Her warmth radiated in moments of hurt and of happiness.

And my office hasn't been the only beneficiary of Joan's love. It also extends to members of her wonderful family, who have joined Joan in the Senate Gallery this evening: her husband Sam, their daughter Molly, their son Ari, and their son Ben, with his wife Saryn. It is a joy to have them here for this special occasion.

I also want to give a shout-out to Joan's grandson, little Miles, who is at home. And I want to salute Joan's late father and her amazing mother Evelyn. Both of her parents helped raise her to be the woman she is today, and her mother, in particular, has always been very vocal about her thoughts about my cable TV appearances.

Thank you all for sharing Joan with us all those years.

And Joan's commitment also extends to her family of faith. Joan isn't just a good Jewish mother to everyone. She is also a devoted member of her synagogue. Her life has been driven by the spirit of “*tikkun olam*,” repairing the world. And this year, for Rosh Hashanah, Joan was invited by her congregation to speak from the pulpit and offer an interpretation of religious text.

In her remarks, Joan shared this reflection:

I know we all want to be remembered for the personal qualities that we value. But I think it's important that we also seek to be remembered for how we respond to the challenges of our times.

That isn't just a meditation on faith; that is a meditation on service. In Joan's eyes, each of us has a responsibility to match our strong words with even stronger deeds. We honor our values only through our action. It isn't enough to envision a more perfect world. We need to build it ourselves—brick by brick, hour by hour, good deed by good deed.

Joan has spent her life realizing the promise of that creed, and because of it, she leaves behind a legacy of good works that not only fill up bookshelves but also fill up the lives and hearts of countless people in our State of Maryland.

She has helped guide people in need. She has met the moment. She has

changed lives for the better. She has done so much good for so many Marylanders for so many years that our State will always be better because of it.

So on behalf of me and my entire family, on behalf of our entire staff, past and present, on behalf of all the people in the State of Maryland, we thank you, Joan Kleinman. Your legacy of good works has left the world a much better place.

Joan, we love you.

Even though Joan has retired from our office, I will continue to seek her counsel and relish her friendship for years to come.

I yield the floor.

## MORNING BUSINESS

### HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the election of Xiomara Castro Sarmiento, the first woman to hold the office of President of Honduras. She succeeded Juan Orlando Hernandez who had discredited the office of the Presidency by colluding with drug traffickers, corrupt business owners, and other criminals; abusing his authority by pressuring corrupt legislators and judges to dismantle the institutions of democracy; and using the armed forces and police to brutally silence his critics. The many crimes committed by his government were well documented, yet numerous U.S. officials treated him like a legitimate partner even after his stolen reelection in 2017, until he was finally arrested and extradited to the United States.

The election of President Castro gave the people of Honduras a new sense of hope that finally that dark period was behind them, that rather than seeking to enrich themselves and hold onto power, she and her administration would finally tackle the grinding poverty, inequality, injustice, impunity, and insecurity that have caused so many Hondurans to seek a better, safer life outside the country.

It has now been 10 months since President Castro was sworn in, and her record is mixed. She has taken a number of important steps to reverse the improper and illegal practices of her predecessor and to put the country on a brighter path. By doing so, she has distinguished herself from her counterparts in El Salvador and Guatemala who have chosen to continue down the dark path of authoritarianism, corruption, and impunity. But while her administration faces every imaginable challenge, none is more urgent and necessary than reversing the Hernandez administration's assault on the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law. Under President Hernandez, the very concept of justice was turned on its head. Anyone with money could get away with practically anything, including murder, and the gov-

ernment could arrest and imprison anyone with impunity. The vast majority of crimes went unpunished.

Recognizing the need to establish public confidence in the courts and Office of the Attorney General, one of President Castro's most important promises during her campaign was to create a *Comision Internacional Contra la Impunidad en Honduras—CICIH*—to succeed the defunct Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity—*MACCIH*—which was shut down by President Hernandez. Yet, nearly a year after her election, a formal agreement between the United Nations and Honduras, or *convenio*, to establish an independent *CICIH*, has not been signed.

One of the lessons the people of Central America have learned is that the only way to establish the rule of law and end impunity in their countries is with the active participation of international institutions and experts and the unequivocal commitment of local officials. Despite millions of dollars invested by the United States and other donor countries, that local commitment was lacking for the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala—*CICIG*—and the *MACCIH* in Honduras. Each was pointed to by the former leaders of those countries as proof of their commitment to the rule of law. Yet each was vulnerable to manipulation, and each was shut down by those same leaders when it became clear that they themselves could be held accountable for their crimes. Their only interest was in appearing to support the institutions of justice while all the time ensuring that they, their families, and their corrupt accomplices in government and the private sector remained above the law.

Considering how easily *CICIG* and *MACCIH* were sabotaged by the previous leaders of those countries and how much is at stake for the people of Honduras and the country's future development, nothing is more important than firmly establishing a culture of respect for the rule of law and for those whose job it is to administer it.

Doing so will take years, but the essential first step in that process is for the Castro administration to complete the negotiations with the United Nations and sign a *convenio* for the installation of a fully independent *CICIH* headed by a commissioner with the necessary experience, professionalism, and integrity, selected by the United Nations.

An independent commissioner will work with local judicial authorities in applying the law to the facts, wherever they lead. Past partial solutions only resulted in money wasted, time lost, and justice denied. Only after such a *convenio* is signed, which should occur without further delay, will the Honduran people and the international community have confidence that President Castro will keep her word and that Honduras will finally be on a path toward real justice and accountability.

# WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, November 20, 2022, marked the 27th World Day of Remembrance—WDoR—for Road Traffic Victims, commemorating the millions of people killed and injured on the world's roads. It is also a day to thank emergency responders for their role in saving lives, to reflect on the impact of road traffic deaths and injuries on families and communities, and to draw attention to the need for improved legislation, awareness, infrastructure, and technology to save more families from the tragedy of losing a loved one.

More than 1 million people die from road crashes every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured. Road traffic crashes are the No. 1 killer of young people aged 15–29 and the eighth leading cause of death among all people worldwide. Rochelle Sobel, president of the Association for Safe International Road Travel, highlighted the gravity of this issue and the imperative to fix it: “Every 27 seconds, somewhere in the world, a person dies in a road crash.”

On this 27th anniversary of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, it is important to remember the history and recommit to the goals of this day. It was initiated in 1995 as the European Day of Remembrance and quickly spread around the globe to countries in Africa, South America, and Asia. In 2005, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 60/2, recognizing November 15 as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Since that time, the observance of this day has continued to spread to a growing number of countries on every continent.

Last year marked the start of the new Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030, during which the WDoR will highlight the reasons for all of the necessary actions to be taken during this coming decade. Indeed, the day has become an important moment to focus international attention on this preventable epidemic and as an advocacy tool in global efforts to reduce road casualties. As a result of the growing awareness and global call to action that World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims has generated, in September 2020, the United Nations passed a resolution declaring the years 2021 to 2030 a new Decade of Action for Road Safety. The declaration affirms the UN's commitment to work vigorously to implement a new, ambitious agenda to halve road crash deaths by 2030.

Additionally, the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 calls on governments and their stakeholders, including NGOs and private citizens, to address the personal, medical, and financial burdens associated with road traffic deaths and injuries.

The devastation of losing a child, parent, sibling, partner, friend, caregiver, or caretaker is immeasurable, as

are the challenges of caring for a permanently disabled loved. Road traffic crashes are preventable, and so we owe it to our communities to work together so that the hopes and dreams of our loved ones are not shattered on the roads of the United States and the world. We must all take action to prevent these avoidable tragedies and save lives.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO JACKIE CRABTREE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree who is retiring after 27 years of leading his community.

When Crabtree was elected mayor of Pea Ridge in 1994, it was a part-time position that oversaw a population of 1,300 people. He helped usher in growth and development that, today, underpins a flourishing community that now boasts nearly 6,600 residents.

In his decades of service and commitment, Mayor Crabtree successfully met the moment to change the community including providing the services and needs citizens rely on such as a full-time fire department and paramedics and an expanded police department.

His leadership was crucial to improving the infrastructure in the city with an upgraded wastewater treatment plant, new water lines, and additional sidewalks.

The list of accomplishments he has directed is lengthy, but he is quick to credit his dedicated team. Mayor Crabtree's humility reflects his success as a leader and public servant.

The mayor considers it an honor and privilege to serve the people of Pea Ridge. They will surely miss his vision and dedication, but I am confident he will continue to be involved and engaged.

From a career at Walmart, to the Pea Ridge School Board and president of the Arkansas Municipal League, Mayor Crabtree has spent countless hours giving back to his community and beyond. I applaud him for his commitment to helping others and enacting positive change. I appreciate his example and many years of friendship.

I wish him the best of luck in his retirement where he will be able to spend more time with his wife and high school sweetheart Freida Sue Booth and their son Eric, daughter-in-law Shelly, and granddaughters Mahala and Kaylea. •

### TRIBUTE TO DANA CONNORS

• Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, it is a great pleasure to join people throughout the State of Maine in thanking Dana Connors for a remarkable career of nearly six decades of devoted service and lasting contributions in government and the private sector. In addition to being an outstanding

leader, Dana is a cherished friend to me and so many others.

I first met Dana when I was working for Bill Cohen in Washington and he was the city manager of Presque Isle, a position he held for 16 years. Both of us are natives of Aroostook County, so we have always had that special county bond.

Years later, we served together in Governor John McKernan's cabinet, where he was commissioner of transportation. Everyone who worked with Dana during his 11 years in that challenging role was in awe of the fact that Dana could go into any meeting, and no matter how unhappy the people might be about the condition of a road or bridge in their community, they inevitably came out smiling. He just had a knack, which he still has, of always listening to people and making them feel valued.

From there, Dana stepped forward to serve as president of the chamber. Throughout his nearly 30 years of leadership, he has shown a deep understanding of the role of businesses in our State, particularly those that are owned by families. He is a staunch supporter of Maine's traditional industries, including farming, fishing, and forestry, and a champion of such emerging industries as advanced manufacturing and biotechnology.

What motivates Dana are his love for our State, his belief in our communities, and his deep affection for our hard-working, ingenious, and determined people. He understands the importance of creating an environment that is conducive to small businesses starting up, growing, and expanding. Above all, Dana is passionate about ensuring that Mainers have good jobs and are able to stay right here in Maine. There is no better demonstration of this desire than his strong and effective advocacy for vocational education, apprenticeships, and other programs that provide Mainers with skills that are in demand by Maine employers.

I am especially grateful to Dana for the advice he provided during the pandemic as I was drafting the Paycheck Protection Program. I knew I could turn to him for guidance on how it should be crafted and what would work best to help our small employers remain in business and continue to pay their employees. Dana was truly an invaluable resource during that crisis.

There is one special memory of Dana that I want to share. In 2016, he brought together all five of Maine's living U.S. Senators—George Mitchell, Bill Cohen, Olympia Snowe, Angus King, and me—for a forum about public confidence in government and bipartisanship. It is a testament to the enduring relationships Dana has forged and the respect he has earned from members of both parties that he was able to convince all five former and current Senators to come to the same event on the same night.

There is another part to that story that says so much about Dana. At the